PLASTICS INDUSTRY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM TO MANAGE AND CONTAIN PELLETS STRENGTHENS REQUIREMENTS AND TRANSPARENCY

WASHINGTON (December 13, 2019) – Participants in an industry program designed to help manage and prevent accidental release of plastic pellets into the environment this week approved a new program element that requires them to report unrecovered releases greater than 0.5 liters or 0.5 kilograms. Reported releases will then be aggregated and publicly reported annually.

The new requirements apply to companies that volunteer to become part of the enhanced operation clean sweep (OCS) blue program. Following the original OCS program, two years ago the industry introduced a more stringent set of practices—OCS blue—which requires participants to conduct regular training, audits and inspections; implement prevention and management procedures; and report performance to trade associations that administer the program, among other things. The newly approved element will strengthen the stewardship program’s requirements and transparency even further.

“Companies that make plastics are deeply committed to continuous improvement in all aspects of their operations, and we’re making it a priority to enhance the rigor and transparency of our pellet stewardship program,” said Steve Russell, vice president of ACC’s Plastics Division. “In 2018, all members of ACC’s Plastics Division committed to implement OCS blue across their U.S. facilities by the end of 2020. Not only are they on track to meet these commitments, but they’re raising the bar as they go. We hope all companies that make, use, transport or handle plastic pellets join us in implementing OCS and OCS blue.”

“Our members are part of the solution when it comes to eradicating plastic waste in our oceans and waterways,” said Tony Radoszewski, president and CEO of the Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS). “Operation Clean Sweep is an important tool in achieving this goal. OCS and OCS blue provide an essential framework for companies that handle plastic pellets.”

OCS and OCS blue are administered by the American Chemistry Council’s Plastics Division and the Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS). Program resources, such as a manual, checklists,
and other materials can be downloaded and used or adapted at no cost by any company that handles plastic pellets, powders or flakes.

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The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care®; common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues; and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a $553 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is among the largest exporters in the nation, accounting for ten percent of all U.S. goods exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.

Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS)
The Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS), formerly SPI, is the only organization that supports the entire plastics supply chain, representing nearly one million workers in the $451 billion U.S. industry. Since 1937, PLASTICS has been working to make its members and the industry more globally competitive while advancing recycling and sustainability. To learn more about PLASTICS’ education initiatives, industry-leading insights and events, networking opportunities and policy advocacy, and North America’s largest plastics trade show, NPE: The Plastics Show, visit plasticsindustry.org. Connect with PLASTICS on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.